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Newberry 30th. May 1782.

Sir—

May it please your Excellency to indulge me while I say that in the month of March 1781 I was taken a prisoner as set forth in my narrative continued in Canada untill September when I obtained Liberty to return home on parole. which I could effect only by engaging to carry on a correspondence with them. This was my view to get what intelligence I was able respecting their plans and movements. And in hopes to be exchanged I might be able in a regular way to have given some important intelligence. I have taken such measures as appeared most likely to effect the same but as these have hitherto failed. I find the season so far advanced as not to admit of farther delay without acquainting your Excellency.

The proposed plans of the Enemy the last Campaign frustrated for want of provisions they determined to persue this spring as early as possible.

To that we have used their most unwearied endeavors with Vermont to prepare the way which they have in a very great and incredible degree Lived to pass and is daily increasing and unless some speedy stop can be put to it I dread the consequences I entreat your Excellency that if possible by a regular exchange, I may be enabled to give all the intelligence in my power without hazarding my character which otherwise I am determined to do at the risque of my Honor - my all and perhaps to the great injury of hundreds of poor prisioners now in their hands.

Having had experience am grieved to think of their situation. This infernal plan of treachery with Vermont (as I often heard in Canada) was contrived before Ethan Allen left the British and he was engaged on their side. It ran through the country like a torrent from New York to Canada and the present temper of Vermont is a piece of the same. Were the people in general upon the grants this side the mountains to declare for New Hampor New York it would be contrary to the agreement of their leading men and unless protected by your Excellency the innocent with-

the guilty would share a miserable fate. The part of the Country being sold by a few designing men of which a large number are jealous yet but a small number have by me been informed or otherwise got the certainty puts the inhabitants in a most disagreeable situation. They are desirous of declaring for New Hampshire many of their leaders earnestly dissuading them against it keeps us in a tumult untill I fear the Enemy will get so great advantage as to raise their standard to the destruction of this part of the Country. They keep their spies, constantly in this quarter without molestation and know every movement and transmit the same to Canada and when matters take a turn contrary to their minds we are miserably exposed to their secret resentment I am entirely dedicated to your Excellency's pleasure. Should my past conduct meet your Excellency's approbation my highest ambition will be satisfied if not deal with me as your wisdom shall direct. I most earnestly entreat your Excellency to meditate a moment on my critical and perplexing situation as well as this part of the Country and that I may receive by Captain Bayley the bearer who will be able to give further information.

Your Excellency's pleasure in this affair: and beg leave to subscribe myself your Excellency's most sincere and most devoted servant

Thomas Johnson.

Newbury 30 May 1782.

His Excellency

General Washington General &c &c &c.

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Thomas Johnson to General Haldemand

I am happy to inform you at this time - just returned from Boston - I find New Hampshire most inveterate against Vermont they have appointed officers and ordered men to be raised to suppress. This is caused by the information given by the prisoners that deserted last fall - they tell of an alliance commensing betwixt Canada & Vermont but Vermont hath friends in plenty. Governor Hancock is accused of being too friendly to Vermont by Mr Adams and others and he really is friendly to the state. I am informed by friends that some part of the province of Maine with Nova Scotia is carrying on a march which if effected will have a most glorious effect at this time. Such as have been very furious with us in times past now say that they will mind their own business if they are not distrepsed. As General Bayley hath left this place there is no one that troubles themselves with talking people. There is much talk of a peace the first Town in New England, and giving their own members instructions how to settle a peace as to the fishing and many other things. no orders as to recruiting the Army as yet. No movement in the Army. as I can understand - but in one month from this time I think I can give you a more authentic account. A few days past General Hazen passed thro this state making all the interest in his power to get the Grants of land in this state, as to the surrender of Cornwallis I shall forward the papers to you which will give you the accounts of that unhappy affair. But the friends of B. are not discartened it may serve to lull the country. Should it be otherwise I shall endeavor to give you the earliest notice. I think the present way of conveyance to be very safe - we have had full accounts of the French when they left the Chesapeake that they sailed right for St Eustatia and took it on surprise without little or no resistance as well as Montinia. The French made a present of Eustatia site to the Dutch as soon as they had taken it. My earnest request is that Mr Page may return home as soon and in that way that your wisdom may direct.

1932: 5/9

N. B. There are several other letters which were inclosed in General Bayles letters to General Washington but as they do not contain any important historical fact I have omitted to copy them.

H. Stevens.

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Arlington Dec. 24th. 1782.

Sir—

I received your letter with the Prisoner and approve of your conduct— have sent him to Bennington with my advice to Col: Robinson to call the superior Court immediately for his trial and I hope and trust that Justice will be done him—

I have sent the 12 lbs. Powder agreable to your request—

as to my sending or ordering a standing Force to Guilford. I had rather hang them one by one untill they are exterpated from the Face of the Earth. However I wait for the returns of the officers that commanded the Posse (which will soon be) to send orders to the sheriff to collect the Fines and Cost when if they continue obstinate, a Force must accompany the sheriff sufficient to silence them— I am not without Hopes that the consequences of Churches Trial will have some good effect on his connection.

I am Sir your very obedient

Humble Servant

Thomas Chittenden.

Col: Bradley.